

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3776
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2003
ABANDONED OIL WELLS OF ONGC AND OIL
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many wells drilled by ONGC and OIL have been found abandoned due to non discovery of hydrocarbons;
- (b) if so, the amount spent on such abandoned wells during the last three years;
- (c) whether the said abandoned area was awarded to other parties under new NELP and whether hydrocarbons found in those areas;
- (d) if so, details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for the failure of ONGC and OIL to discover hydrocarbons in those areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (e) : At present, it is only after drilling of a well and production testing that the presence of hydrocarbons, crude oil and/or natural gas, is established. Various kinds of surveys, such as Gravity Magnetic and Seismic, only serve to indicate some probability of occurrence of hydrocarbons. The success in discovery of hydrocarbons depends, inter-alia, on the geological model of the area, which in turn keeps on getting refined with technological advancements and fresh data inputs. As such, revisiting exploratory acreages with refined models is a standard Upstream practice all over the world. Oil and natural gas discoveries have been made with improvements in technology and changes in geological insights after initial failures. As such, no adverse inference may be drawn about these failures nor is any study required.

Information regarding the amount spent on abandoned wells, hydrocarbon discoveries by parties under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in the earlier abandoned areas, etc., is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.